



MEETING NOTES

IPAC ESA/DVR Subcommittee Meeting

Capitol View Building 1, Olympia, WA

February 4, 2010

The IPAC ESA/DVR Subcommittee Meeting convened on February 4, 2010 at Capitol View Building 1, in Olympia, WA.

► **In Attendance:**

| Name | Tribe/Organization |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Troy Hutson | DSHS, ESA, OAS |
| Dori Shoji | DSHS, ESA, OAS |
| Barbara Bucsko | DSHS, ESA, OSD |
| Shari Hughes | Cowlitz Indian Tribe VRP Manager |
| Brady Rossnagle | DSHS, ESA, DCS |
| Brice Montgomery | DSHS, ESA, DCS |
| David Rendon | DSHS, ESA, CSD |
| Mike Mowrey | DSHS, ESA, STRO |
| Rochelle Warner | DSHS, ESA, STRO |
| Avreayl Jacobson | DSHS, DVR |
| Sandy Jsames | DSHS, ESA, CSD |
| Sarah Sotomish | DSHS, ESA, STRO |
| Doug North (by telephone) | DSHS, OIP |

► **Welcome & Introductions:**

Sarah Colleen Sotomish, STRO Administrator for Economic Service Administration (ESA), welcomed everyone to the IPAC ESA/DVR Subcommittee Meeting.

► **Message from the Assistant Secretary:** Assistant Secretary for ESA, Troy Hutson, welcomed meeting participants and he thanked Shari Hughes, Vocational Rehabilitation Program Manager from Cowlitz Indian Tribe, for joining the IPAC ESA – DVR Subcommittee meeting for the first time. He provided the following updates:

- **Tribal Visits:** DSHS Secretary Dreyfus has recently assigned Tribal visits to all the Assistant Secretaries for 2010 as a follow-up to her recent visits with tribal leadership. Troy will be visiting the Quinault Indian Nation, Hoh, Samish, Spokane, and Cowlitz Tribes. By traveling to the Tribes, state and tribal “decision makers” will be able to more quickly assess and address service delivery issues as well as consider ways to enhance those services to tribal members.
- **Mobile CSO:** ESA partnered with the Gates Foundation and were awarded a grant that helped us purchase two customized vans to be used as fully contained mobile Community Service Offices. It is part of a much larger initiative designed to transform the way we do business to better meet our customers’ needs. The

vans will provide direct outreach to remote areas and underserved communities. An added bonus is that our ability to respond when disaster hits will be greatly enhanced.

- Tribal Poverty Summit: At a tribal visit by Troy to the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe last July, he discussed with Chairman Ron Allen having a tribal poverty summit. The summit would focus on job creation and training in tribal communities and creating and enhancing partnerships to provide access to assistance services in the community. ESA is collaborating with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe and the Office of Indian Policy ESA, on the summit, which is anticipated to take place in early fall. Colleen Cawston is working with IPAC to form a steering committee and begin planning.
- Tribal Eligibility Project: Troy was pleased to announce that as of January 7, 2010, the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe is now fully operational as a pilot Tribal office for Basic Food and certain medical programs. This project has been in development for over three years. Contributing to the success of this project has been the collaboration of the Tribe, all parts of ESA and other DSHS administrations.
- Tribal TANF WAC: Troy stated the ESA Tribal-State WAC Development Workgroup process is near completion. ESA, through the Subcommittee, held two Roundtables: November 12th & January 6th. With the successful completion of these two meetings the next step in the process will be scheduling Consultation.
- Federal Grant Opportunity: USDA Food and Nutrition Services has put out a Request for Applications (RFA) due May 21, 2010 for a pilot program to test the premise that Basic Food clients will be more inclined to buy healthy fruits and vegetables with their benefits if they are given a financial incentive. Only one state will be selected nationally for the Healthy Initiatives Pilot. ESA has submitted a letter of intent to apply. With the partnerships developed in Pierce County, ESA has determined this would be ideal place for the Pilot. ESA has held discussions with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Gates Foundation & Boeing – all have expressed in participating.
- State Funding for Tribal TANF Programs: Troy explained that ESA has embarked on a journey and is working with tribes on developing a new approach for distributing State Maintenance of Effort funding to Tribal TANF programs. We held our first Roundtable discussion on January 28th.

► Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Updates:

- Division of Vocation Rehabilitation (DVR) Community Relations Administrator, Avreayl Jacobson distributed DVR’s 2010 Calendar.
- She announced that DVR is currently recruiting for a new director for DVR.
- Avreayl also mentioned she has multiple conflicts with the current IPAC ESA – DVR Subcommittee meeting schedule and she is respectfully requesting we revisit the dates.

► Legislative Updates:

- Dori Shoji provided Legislative Updates. This update included the 2010 Major Bills of Interest. (For more information see the 2010 Major Bills of Interest document attached).